

**MINUTES FOR:  
BEAR RIVER BASIN ADVISORY GROUP  
MAY 7, 2009  
DEQ, Pocatello Regional Office  
444 Hospital Way # 300**

**Attending:**

Dallan Nalder	BAG Member- Agriculture Representative - BAG Chairman
Gale C. Moser	BAG Member - Live Stock Representative
Eulalie Langford	BAG Member - Environmental Representative
Mitch Poulsen	BAG Member - Bear Lake Regional Commission
Annette deKnijf	USFWS/Bear Lake NWR
Brad Higginson	Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Steven Smith	Idaho State Conservation Commission
Jim Mende	Department of Fish and Game - Pocatello
Lynn VanEvery	DEQ - Pocatello
Melissa Thompson	DEQ - Pocatello
Marcy Pearhill	DEQ - Pocatello

Basin Advisory Chairman Dallan Nalder called the meeting to order, attendee introductions were made. The May 7th 2009 Agenda was reviewed and 2 items were added:

- Invasive species monitoring (Zebra & Quagga mussels)
- Information on the Bear River Basin Advisory Group Website

**BAG Business -**

Lynn VanEvery discussed the current vacancies on the Bear River BAG and put forth names of those interested in serving as members on the BAG.

Mitch Hart was recommended by the Mining Association to represent mining interests on the Bear River BAG. David Cottle of Bear Lake Watch wishes to represent Water Recreation and Ryan Cook of Preston, Idaho and current owner of Riverdale Resort would like to represent non-municipal NPDES holders.

**Group Discussion**

The group discussed various attributes of the nominees. Mitch Hart, by virtue of his recommendation by the Mining Association and his active involvement with Agrium as the local manager for mining remediation was nominated to serve as representative of mining.

David Cottle and his wife Claudia are both active members of Bear Lake Watch and both expressed interest in joining the Bear Lake BAG. The group discussed the efficacy of having them both as representatives of Water Recreation, with the understanding that they represent only one vote. The nomination was extended to David Cottle with the understanding that Claudia or another designee may represent Water Recreation at meetings.

Ryan Cook was the only person to express interest in representing NPDES holders and wrote a letter to the board. Gale Moser & Steve Smith both know him and agreed he was capable. It is hoped he will act as a bridge for the Bear River BAG to those NPDES holders in the basin and relay their opinion. Ryan Cook was nominated to serve as the NPDES representative.

A letter was prepared to nominate Mitch Hart, David Cottle and Ryan Cook to serve as members of the Bear River BAG to be signed by Dallan Naldar and sent to Toni Hardesti, Director the Department of Environmental Quality for approval.

Lynn VanEvery told the BAG that the position for representative of local government was still vacant. Members discussed the need to have a member of Caribou County in the BAG, as all other counties are represented by current members. Lynn VanEvery was asked to extend an invitation to elected officials in Caribou County to fill the vacancy by the next meeting in July.

A new member position to represent Hydropower was brought forward by Lynn VanEvery. A motion was passed and seconded to advertise and also make inquiries of local hydropower contacts for a Hydropower representative to sit on the Bear River BAG.

### **Update on 319 Process**

Lynn VanEvery gave the BAG a summary of events for the upcoming funding cycle. He reminded BAG members that their role in the funding process will include ranking the various 319 projects and presenting them in Boise at the Super BAG meeting.

In an attempt to speed up the process of funding, the schedule for soliciting, ranking and presenting projects will be shortened. This year especially will prove challenging as applications for 319 funds has increased tremendously and hence, competition for the funds is fierce. Approximately \$4.5 million in projects are competing for about \$2.5 million in funds.

A meeting to review and prioritize the Bear River BAG 319 Applications for the Super BAG meeting in Boise will be July 9, 2009. During the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, a new meeting in October or November will be scheduled to begin work on next years projects. Those projects that were unable to receive funding this year may be able to obtain the funds in the 2010/2011 cycle.

The Super BAG meeting will be in Boise December 13, 2009 with Dave Pesarski. If appropriations are slow from the Federal Government, this new schedule may be altered.

### **Implementation Plan Update Melissa Thompson – DEQ, Pocatello**

DEQ coordinates with other agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Idaho Department of Lands and Idaho Transportation Department to improve the water quality in the basin. The DEQ has had little response from these groups.

Brad Higginson was introduced and presented the Forest Service's implementation plan for the Bear River Basin. The plan includes the implementation of standards for grazing and transportation systems within Forest Service land.

### **Dry/Preuss/Co-Op Creek TMDLs**

Melissa Thompson summarized the current status of deferred streams within the Bear River Basin. Please see presentation on-line for detailed information on each stream.

Brad offered to share stream data with DEQ and help the DEQ gain access to streams on private land for monitoring.

### **Existing/Recently Completed 319 Progress Report**

Mitch Poulsen from Bear Lake Regional Commission presented information on completed 319 projects within the Bear River Basin. For photographs and detailed information please see the Bear River BAG website.

### **Group Discussion**

The group discussed how much of the Thomas Fork improvements were completed. Mitch said that around 28% is done and has cost approximately \$800,000 or \$28/linear foot. He also said that past improvements have held up well.

Eulalie Langford expressed concern over Rocky Mountain Power's remediation project and the current focus of the improvements. She would prefer that less water were diverted to Mud Lake, and more emphasis be placed on the St. Charles.

Steven Smith of the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission also presented information on a number of completed 319 projects including funding breakdowns. For photographs and detailed information on each project please see the Bear River BAG website.

### **WLA Update on Georgetown, Soda Springs and Grace**

Georgetown lagoons discharge into a small tributary and will have to apply for a permit with the EPA. Soda Springs has passed a bond which takes into account stricter standards for water quality.

Lynn expressed an understanding of the cost to bring small waste water systems into compliance with strict TMDLs and WLAs. He feels it is important to work with local officials and the community to implement improvements that won't bankrupt local cities but will improve water quality over time, perhaps at a slower rate by reducing TMDLs.

Eulalie Langford was concerned about runoff from parking lots that contain oil and other pollutants which then flow into Montpelier Creek and wanted to know what could be done to prevent it. Lynn said that many cities have similar problems and that improvements in a city's infrastructure is often the only way to prevent runoff.

### **Introduction to invasive species, Zebra & Quagga Mussels, Monitoring**

Melissa and Lynn talked about monitoring the DEQ has begun to track the invasive species, Zebra & Quagga mussels. Melissa showed a sample of DEQ monitoring equipment which consisted of a variety of substrates to attract mussels.

Of major concern are boats and equipment coming into the state from Utah, which has already been infested with these invasive species. A number of steps are necessary in order to ensure that Idaho waterways are not similarly infested including inspection, advisories and educating the public about the dangers. Meetings have been called to address the issue in Ogden, May 20, 2009 and Montpelier at the Trail Center on June 16, 2009. Tom Wolfe is the coordinator from the Department of Agriculture.

### **BAG Web Page**

Melissa Thompson let the group know about the BAG website housed at [www.deq.idaho.gov](http://www.deq.idaho.gov), which will be an important resource for all members to receive information about upcoming events, detailed information from presentations and past meetings. Members can sign up for e-mail alerts which will let them know when new information is posted.

### **BAG Discussion/Plan for next meeting**

The next BAG meeting is set for July 9, 2009 where BAG members will discuss, review and vote on the 319 projects presented. Boise representative, Dave Pesarski, will be attending.

### **Adjourn**